O.

O Has in English a long sound; as, *drone*, *groan*, *stone*, *alone*, *cloke*, *broke*, *coal*, *droll*; or short, *got*, *knot*, *shot*, *prong*, *long*. It is usually denoted long by a servile *e* subjoined; as, *moan*, or by *e* at the end of the syllable; as, *bone*: when these vowels are not appended, it is generally short, except before *ll*; as, *droll*, *scroll*, and even then sometimes short; as, *loll*.

1. O is used as an interjection of wishing or exclamation.

O that we, who have resisted all the designs of his love, would now try to defeat that of his anger! *Decay of Piety.*

O! were he present, that his eyes and hands
Might see, and urge, the death which he commands. *Dryd.*

2. O is used with no great elegance by *Shakespeare* for a circle or oval.

Can this cockpit hold
The vasty field of France? or may we cram
Within this wooden *O*, the very casks
That did affright the air at Agincourt? *Shakesp.*

OAF. *n. s.* [This word is variously written; *auff*, *ofe*, and *oph*; it seems a corruption of *ouph*, a demon or fairy, in German *alf*, from which *elf*: and means properly the same with *changeling*; a foolish child left by malevolent *ouphs* or *fairies*, in the place of one more witty, which they steal away.]

1. A changeling; a foolish child left by the fairies.

These, when a child haps to be got,
Which after proves an idiot,
When folk perceives it thriveth not,
The fault therein to smother:
Some silly doating brainless calf,
That understands things by the half,
Says that the fairy left this *oaf*,
And took away the other. *Drayt. Nymphid.*

2. A dolt; a blockhead; an idiot.

OA'FISH. *adj.* [from *oaf*.] Stupid; dull; doltish.

OA'FISHNESS. *n. s.* [from *oafish*.] Stupidity; dullness.

OAK. *n. s.* [ac, æc, Saxon; which, says *Skinner*, to shew how easy it is to play the fool, under a shew of literature and deep researches, I will, for the diversion of my reader, derive from ὄκος, a house; the oak being the best timber for building. *Skinner* seems to have had *Junius* in his thoughts, who on this very word has shewn his usual fondness for Greek etymology, by a derivation more ridiculous than that by which *Skinner* has ridiculed him. *Ac* or *oak*, says the grave critick, signified among the Saxons, like *robur* among the Latins, not only an *oak* but *strength*, and may be well enough derived, *non incommode deduci potest*, from ὀλκὴ, strength; by taking the three first letters and then sinking the λ, as is not uncommon.]

The *oak*-tree hath male flowers, or katkins, which consist of a great number of small slender threads. The embryos, which produced at remote distances from these on the same tree, do afterwards become acorns, which are produced in hard scaly cups: the leaves are sinuated. The species are five. *Miller.*

He return'd with his brows bound with *oak*. *Shakesp.*

He lay along
Under an *oak*, whose antique root peeps out
Upon the brook that brawls along this wood. *Shakesp.*

No tree beareth so many bastard fruits as the *oak*: for besides the acorns, it beareth galls, *oak* apples, *oak* nuts, which are inflammable, and *oak* berries, sticking close to the body of the tree without stalk. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

The monarch *oak*, the patriarch of the trees,
Shoots rising up and spreads by flow degrees:
Three centuries he grows, and three he stays
Supreme in state; and in three more decays. *Dry.*

An *oak* growing from a plant to a great tree, and then lopped, is still the same *oak*. *Locke.*

A light earthy, stony, and sparry matter, incrusted and affixed to *oak* leaves. *Woodward on Foss.*

In the days of Homer every grove, river, fountain, and *oak* tree, were thought to have their peculiar deities. *Odyss.*

Let India boast her plants, nor envy we
The weeping amber and the balmy tree,
While by our *oaks* the precious loads are born,
And realms commanded which those trees adorn. *Pope.*

OAK. [*Evergreen.*]

The leaves are, for the most part, indented, or sinuated, and in some the edges of the leaves are prickly, and are evergreen: it hath amentaceous flowers, which are produced at remote distances from the fruit on the same tree: the fruit is an acorn like the common *oak*. The wood of this tree is accounted very good for many sorts of tools and utensils; and affords the most durable charcoal in the world. *Miller.*

OAKA'PPLE. *n. s.* [*oak* and *apple*.] A kind of spongy excrescence on the oak.

Another kind of excrescence is an exudation of plants joined with putrefaction, as in *oakapples*, which are found chiefly upon the leaves of oaks. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

OA'KEN. *adj.* [from *oak*.] Made of oak; gathered from oak.

No nation doth equal England for *oaken* timber wherewith to build ships. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

By lot from Jove I am the pow'r
Of this fair wood, and live in *oaken* bow'r. *Milton.*

Clad in white velvet all their troop they led,
With each an *oaken* chaplet on his head. *Dryden.*

An *oaken* garland to be worn on festivals, was the recompense of one who had covered a citizen in battle. *Addison.*

He snatched a good tough *oaken* cudgel, and began to brandish it. *Arbuthnot's J. Bull.*

OA'KENPIN. *n. s.* An apple.

Oakenpin, so called from its hardness, is a lasting fruit, yields excellent liquor, and is near the nature of the Westbury apple, though not in form. *Mortimer.*

OA'KUM. *n. s.* [A word probably formed by some corruption.] Cords untwisted and reduced to hemp, with which, mingled with pitch, leaks are stopped.

They make their *oakum*, wherewith they chalk the seams of the ships, of old seer and weather beaten ropes, when they are over spent and grown so rotten as they serve for no other use but to make rotten *oakum*, which moulders and wastes away with every sea as the ships labour and are tossed. *Ral.*

Some drive old *oakum* thro' each seam and rift;
Their left hand does the calking-iron guide;
The rattling mallet with the right they lift. *Dryden.*

OAR. *n. s.* [ape, Saxon; perhaps by allusion to the common expression of plowing the water, from the same root with *ear*, to plow, *aro*, Lat.] A long pole with a broad end, by which vessels are driven in the water, the resistance made by water to the oar pushing on the vessel.

Th' *oars* were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made
The water which they beat, to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes. *Shakesp. Jul. Caesar.*

So tow'rds a ship the *oar-fins'd* gallies ply,
Which wanting sea to ride, or wind to fly,
Stands but to fall reveng'd. *Denham's Poems.*

In shipping such as this, the Irish kern
And untaught Indian, on the stream did glide,
E'er sharp-keel'd boats to stem the flood did learn,
Or fin-like *oars* did spread from either side. *Dryden.*

Its progressive motion may be effected by the help of several *oars*, which in the outward ends of them shall be like the fins of a fish to contract and dilate. *Wilkins.*

To OAR. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To row.

He more undaunted on the ruin rode,
And *oar'd* with labouring arms along the flood. *Pope.*

To OAR. *v. a.* To impel by rowing.

His bold head
'Bove the contentious waves he kept, and *oar'd*
Himself with his good arms in lusty strokes
To th' shore. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*

OA'RY. *adj.* [from *oar*.] Having the form or use of oars.

His hair transforms to down, his fingers meet,
In skinny films, and shape his *oary* feet. *Addison.*

The swan with arched neck,
Between her white wings mantling, proudly rows
Her state with *oary* feet. *Milton.*

OAST. *n. s.* A kiln. Not in use.

Empty the binn into a hog-bag, and carry them immediately to the *oast* or kiln, to be dried. *Mortimer.*

OATCA'KE. *n. s.* [*oat* and *cake*.] Cake made of the meal of oats.

Take a blue stone they make haver or *oatcakes* upon, and lay it upon the cross bars of iron. *Peacham.*

OA'TEN. *adj.* [from *oat*.] Made of oats; bearing oats.

When shepherds pipe on *oaten* straws,
And merry larks are ploughmens clocks. *Shakesp.*

OATH. *n. s.* [*aith*, Gothick; *ab*, Saxon. The distance between the noun *oath*, and the verb *swear*, is very observable, as it may shew that our oldest dialect is formed from different languages.] An affirmation, negation, or promise, corroborated by the attestation of the Divine Being.

Read over Julia's heart, thy first best love,
For whose dear sake thou then did'st rend thy faith
Into a thousand *oaths*; and all those *oaths*
Descended into perjury to love me. *Shakespeare.*

He that strikes the first stroke, I'll run him up to the hilts as I am a soldier.

—An *oath* of mickle might; and fury shall abate. *Sha.*

We have consultations, which inventions shall be published, which not: and take an *oath* of secrecy for the concealing of those which we think fit to keep secret. *Bacon.*

Those called to any office of trust, are bound by an *oath* to the faithful discharge of it: but an *oath* is an appeal to God, and therefore can have no influence, except upon those who believe that he is. *Swift.*

OA'THABLE. *adj.* [from *oath*. A word not used.] Capable of having an oath administered.

You're not *oathable*,
Altho' I know you'll swear
Into strong shudders th' immortal gods. *Shakespeare.*

OATHBREA'KING. *n. s.* [*oath* and *break*.] Perjury; the violation of an oath.

His *oathbreaking* he mended thus,
By now forswearing that he is forsworn. *Shak. Hen.* IV.

OA'TMALT. *n. s.* [*oat* and *malt*.] Malt made of oats.

In Kent they brew with one half *oatmalt*, and the other half barleymalt. *Mortimer's Husb.*

OA'TMEAL. *n. s.* [*oat* and *meal*.] Flower made by grinding oats.

Oatmeal and butter, outwardly applied, dry the scab on the head. *Arbuthnot on Aliment.*

Our neighbours tell me oft, in joking talk,
Of ashes, leather, *oatmeal*, bran, and chalk. *Gay.*

OA'TMEAL. *n. s.* An herb. *Ainsworth.*

OATS. *n. s.* [ate̅n, Saxon.] A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people.

It is of the grass leaved tribe; the flowers have no petals, and are disposed in a loose panicle: the grain is eatable. The meal makes tolerable good bread. *Miller.*

The *oats* have eaten the horses. *Shakespeare.*

It is bare mechanism, no otherwise produced than the turning of a wild *oatbeard*, by the insinuation of the particles of moisture. *Locke.*

For your lean cattle, fodder them with barley straw first, and the *oat* straw last. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

His horse's allowance of *oats* and beans, was greater than the journey required. *Swift.*

OA'TTHISTLE. *n. s.* [*oat* and *thistle*.] An herb. *Ains.*

OBAMBULA'TION. *n. s.* [*obambulatio*, from *obambulo*, Latin.] The act of walking about. *Dict.*

To OBDU'CE. *v. a.* [*obduco*, Latin.] To draw over as a covering.

No animal exhibits its face in the native colour of its skin but man; all others are covered with feathers, hair, or a cortex that is *obduced* over the cutis. *Hale.*

OBDU'CTION. *n. s.* [from *obductio*, *obduco*, Latin.] The act of covering, or laying a cover.

OBDU'RACY. *n. s.* [from *obdurate*.] Inflexible wickedness; impenitence; hardness of heart.

Thou think'st me as far in the Devil's book, as thou and Falstaff, for *obduracy* and persistency. *Shakespeare's Henry* IV.

God may, by a mighty grace, hinder the absolute completion of sin in final *obduracy*. *South's Serm.*

OBDU'RATE. *adj.* [*obduratus*, Latin.]

1. Hard of heart; inflexibly obstinate in ill; hardned; impenitent.

Oh! let me teach thee for thy father's sake,
That gave thee life, when well he might have slain thee;
Be not *obdurate*, open thy deaf ears. *Shakespeare.*

If when you make your pray'rs,
God should be so *obdurate* as yourselves,
How would it fare with your departed souls? *Shakesp.*

Women are soft, mild, pitiful, and flexible;
Thou stern, *obdurate*, flinty, rough, remorseless. *Shakesp.*

To convince the proud what signs avail,
Or wonders move th' *obdurate* to relent;
They harden'd more, by what might more reclaim. *Milt.*

Obdurate as you are, oh! hear at least
My dying prayers, and grant my last request. *Dryden.*

2. Hardned; firm; stubborn.

Sometimes the very custom of evil makes the heart *obdurate* against whatsoever instructions to the contrary. *Hooker.*

A pleasing sorcery could charm
Pain for a while, or anguish, and excite
Fallacious hope, or arm th' *obdurate* breast
With stubborn patience, as with triple steel. *Milton.*

No such thought ever strikes his marble, *obdurate* heart, but it presently flies off and rebounds from it. It is impossible for a man to be thorough-paced in ingratitude, till he has shook off all fetters of pity and compassion. *South.*

3. Harsh; rugged.

They joined the most *obdurate* consonants without one intervening vowel. *Swift.*

OBDU'RATELY. *adv.* [from *obdurate*.] Stubbornly; inflexibly; impenitently.

OBDU'RATENESS. *n. s.* [from *obdurate*.] Stubbornness; inflexibility; impenitence.

OBDURA'TION. *n. s.* [from *obdurate*.] Hardness of heart; stubbornness.

What occasion it had given them to think, to their greater *obduration* in evil, that through a froward and wanton desire of innovation, we did constrainedly those things, for which conscience was pretended? *Hooker, b.* iv.

OBDU'RED. *adj.* [*obduratus*, Latin.] Hardned; inflexible; impenitent.

This saw his hapless foes, but stood *obdur'd*,
And to rebellious fight rallied their pow'rs
Insensate. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b.* vi.

OBE'DIENCE. *n. s.* [*obedience*, Fr. *obedientia*, Latin.] Obsequiousness; submission to authority; compliance with command or prohibition.

If you violently proceed against him, it would shake in pieces the heart of his *obedience*. *Shakespeare's K. Lear.*

Thy husband
Craves no other tribute at thy hands,
But love, fair looks, and true *obedience*. *Shakesp.*

His servants ye are, to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of *obedience* unto righteousness. *Rom.* vi. 16.

It was both a strange commission, and a strange *obedience* to a commission, for men so furiously assailed, to hold their hands. *Bacon's War with Spain.*

Nor can this be,
But by fulfilling that which thou didst want,
Obedience to the law of God, impos'd
On penalty of death. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b.* xii.

OBE'DIENT. *adj.* [*obediens*, Latin.] Submissive to authority; compliant with command or prohibition; obsequious.

To this end did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be *obedient* in all things. 2 *Cor.* ii. 9.

To this her mother's plot
She, seemingly *obedient*, likewise hath
Made promise. *Shakesp. M. W. of Wind.*

He humbled himself, and became *obedient* unto death. *Phil.* ii. 8.

Religion hath a good influence upon the people, to make them *obedient* to government, and peaceable one towards another. *Tillotson, Serm.* 3.

The chief his orders gives; th' *obedient* band,
With due observance, wait the chief's command. *Pope.*

OBE'DIENTIAL. *adj.* [*obedientiel*, Fr. from *obedient*.] According to the rule of obedience.

Faith is such as God will accept of, when it affords fiducial reliance on the promises, and *obediential* submission to the command. *Hammond.*

Faith is then perfect, when it produces in us a fiduciary assent to whatever the gospel has revealed, and an *obediential* submission to the commands. *Wake's Prep. for Death.*

OBE'DIENTLY. *adv.* [from *obedient*.] With obedience.

We should behave ourselves reverently and *obediently* towards the Divine Majesty, and justly and charitably towards men. *Tillotson.*

OBE'ISANCE. *n. s.* [*obeisance*, Fr. This word is formed by corruption from *abaisance*, an act of reverence.] A bow; a courtesy; an act of reverence made by inclination of the body or knee.

Bartholomew my page,
See dress'd in all suits like a lady;
Then call him Madam, do him all *obeisance*. *Shakespeare.*

Bathsheba bowed and did *obeisance* unto the king. 1 *K.* i. 16.